Jackie's Lawyer Checking Changes in Kennedy Book

Associated Press Cablephoto
HENRI NANNEN

By ROBERT SAMUELS
World Journal Tribune Staff

A revised manuscript of "The Death of a President," submitted by the publishers, Harper and Row, is being studied today by Simon H. Rifkind, chief counsel for Mrs. John F. Kennedy. after a meeting with the publishers last night.

"It shows some changes on the face of it," he said.

Rifkind declined to discuss the changes, but most were believed to involve the personal life and emotions of Mrs. Kennedy.

TO IGNORE CHANGES

Personal passages were changed or cut in an out of court settlement the President's widow reached with Look magazine this week. The magazine will go ahead as scheduled with its four-part, 60,000-word serialization, the first part of which goes on sale Jan. 10.

But in West Germany, Henri Nannen, the editor of the magazine Stern which bought serialization rights to the book from Look for $72,000 apparently intends to go ahead with the publication of the unchanged manuscript.

Nannen was quoted as saying he would ignore demands from Look to change the original manuscript as agreed to by Look with representatives of the Kennedy family.

A representative of Look said that if Stern, which plans to publish its first installment Jan. 15, refused to make the changes, appropriate action would be taken.

"A law-suit by Mrs. Kennedy in Germany would have no success, because German law says that only a statement which has been proved false can be withheld from print," Nannen pointed out.

"The political reputation of President Johnson possibly would be damaged (by publication of the serial as it now stands)," the editor added. "I can understand that Sen. Robert Kennedy, because of his political career, probably will shun this analysis...but that is no reason to publish the unexpurgated historical truth."

Joseph Wurzel, syndicate manager for Look, said that Nannen has not yet seen the modifications for the book. Wurzel said he will fly to West Germany as soon as a

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meeting can be arranged to dissuade Nannen from using original version.

RESUME TALKS

Meanwhile, Rifkind said he is willing to resume talks with Harper and Row today, but added last night: "If we don't resume tomorrow, we will Monday."

The publishers are planning to bring out the book, written by William Manchester at the request of Mrs. Kennedy, this spring.

"There have been some preliminery discussions among the lawyer,' explained Rifkind, "but nothing definitive. Each stated to the other their respective problems. We are exploring mutual problems."

A Manhattan Supreme Court hearing on Mrs. Kennedy's suit has been set for Tuesday, but it is possible that a delay might be sought if no agreement is reached by then, the attorney said.

Mrs. Kennedy originally brought suit against Look and the book publishers to halt publication of the manuscript. She claimed that Manchester had violated an agreement allowing her or Sen. Kennedy to review the final manuscript.

In another development, in Washington, it was revealed that the State Department has held talks with the Nationalist Chinese to bar the publication of the original manuscript in Formosa.

The United States has reportedly been given assurances that the book will not be published there.

Nationalist China has not signed the International Copyright Convention of 1965. A prosperous business in publishing pirated low cost editions of foreign books has developed there.